

REMARKS

Concerning the Examiner's objections to the drawings, an amended Fig. 1 (Replacement Figure) is included in which the container seal has been indicated by the reference numeral 10' and the seal surface 10 of the cover has been more distinctly identified by the respective lead lines.

However, the Examiner's comment that "the U-profile of the U-profiles (8) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claims is not understood as such a profile or profiles are not described in claim 1, nor in claims 2 and 3. In claim 1, rather an operating arm (8) is mentioned.

In view of the Examiner's objections to claims 2 and 3 as having preambles which are inconsistent with that of claim 1, claims 2 and 3 have been amended to refer to "A cover with a container". It is assumed that this amendment overcomes what is believed to be the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 3 as being unpatentable over Waldenmeier et al. (US 4 055 274) in view of Stauner (US 4 946 209).

The earlier US patent 4 055 274, which is assigned to the assignee of the present application, discloses a dual lid closing system as it has been used by Applicant in the past. It is similar to that disclosed in DE 34 25 979 C2 which has been discussed in the introductory part of the present application and over which the cover system according to the present invention is considered to be advantageous.

The arrangement includes a central operating mechanism as it is expedient for a dual lid closure structure for closing coupled openings.

A lid for closing one of the openings includes a locking mechanism with operating arms 18 extending from the central operating mechanism toward the wall of the barrel 1 and carrying at their ends locking pins 19 pivotally supported by pivot pins 20. The locking pins 19 project through openings in the skirt member 19a depending from the lid 13 such that upon upward movement of the arms 18, the locking pins 19 will pivot outwardly into the groove 17 provided in the barrel 1 where they will be engaged so that, upon further upward movement of the arms by the mechanism disposed on the lid, the lid is pulled downwardly in the center

thereof for sealing engagement of the outer circumference of the lid with the rim of the barrel 1.

This arrangement however requires the arms 18 to transmit the full engagement forces between the center of the lid and the barrel 1 and between the center of the lid 13 and the circumferential sealing surfaces 7 of the lid with the barrel rim.

US 4 946 209 discloses a clamping device for releasably interconnecting two components including a bolt extending from one through an opening in the other component. The one component may be a container and the other a lid of the container which lid can be attached to the container by fast acting clamping members 10. An elbow lever arrangement mounted between the bolt and the lid 3 is connected by a rod 1 to a piston 2 of a cylinder 5 so as to straighten the elbow lever for generating a clamping force between the head 18 and the lid 3.

Elbow lever arrangement for generating large forces as the elbow structure is straightened are of course well known and, like in the known arrangements, the elbow lever structure is used in the cited reference to generate increasingly large engagement forces as the elbow lever arrangement is straightened out by the rod 1 connected to the elbow joint.

The arrangement according to the present invention is quite different. Of course, there is also an elbow lever structure for engaging a lid with a container. But here, one lever end is pivotally connected to the lid 1 and the end of the other elbow lever is pivotally connected at 13 to the support arm 8 so that the elbow joint 14 pivots outwardly into the groove 14' of the container wall 1a. The elbow joint 14 therefore serves as a locking pawl which enters the groove 14' for locking the lid to the container. With increasing upward movement of the support arm structure 8, the elbow joint 14 is pivoted further outwardly and upwardly into firm engagement with the upper end wall of the groove 14' whereby the container lid 1 is directly and firmly engaged with the container rim. The operating forces are transmitted to the elbow structures by the support arm 8 increasingly in the longitudinal direction of the support arm 8 so that the forces applied to opposite elbow structures compensate one another via the support arms 8, particularly in the locked position of the container lid. The radial forces effective in the support arms 8 in the locked position of the lid furthermore provide for radial reinforcement of the lid and container arrangement in the area of the container opening.

A person skilled in the art will, in studying the locking mechanism of US 4 946 209, certainly, consider the arrangement as an elbow lever-amplified force generating structure. There is no hint or suggestion that such an elbow lever arrangement as disclosed in US 4 946 209 could possibly be used for directly clamping, with the elbows, the container lid to the container and providing, with such an arrangement, the additional advantages mentioned above.

And as neither US 4 055 274, nor US 4 946 209 discloses a closure arrangement wherein the elbows of an elbow lever arrangement are used as locking pawls nor an arrangement, wherein the cover -container engagement forces are transmitted in the way pointed out above, a combination of the two references cannot possibly lead to the cover closure arrangement as defined in claim 1 of the present application.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 - 3 is therefore respectfully requested and allowance of claims 1 - 3 is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Bach", written in a cursive style.

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